

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /090 W

----- 118579

R 030317Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8309

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 2079

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT NZ

SUBJECT: MINISTER DEFENCE FAULKNER TOUTED AS NEXT DEPUTY PM

REF WELLINGTON 1681. (NOTAL)

1. HUGH WATT HAS APPARENTLY WEATHERED THE IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES REPORTED REFTEL. HIS POSITION, HOWEVER, REMAINS VULNERABLE AND SPECULATION HAS INCREASED THAT MIN DEFENCE FAULKNER WILL REPLACE HIM DURING CAUCUS BALLOTING FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS LATER THIS YEAR. SHOULD FAULKNER BECOME DEPUTY PM HE WOULD PROBABLY MAINTAIN HIS DEFENCE PORTFOLIO WHILE PICKING UP THE LABOUR PORTFOLIO. UNLIKE WATT, HE WOULD BE AN OBVIOUS SUCCESSOR TO KIRK IF AND WHEN LATTER REMOVES HIMSELF FROM POLITICS.

2. WHILE FAULKNER IS FRONT RUNNER FOR DEPUTY PM JOB, MIN FINANCE ROWLING AND MIN TRADE AND INDUSTRY FREER CANNOT BE COUNTED OUT. THEY ARE STRONG MEN IN CABINET AND BOTH WOULD LIKE TO BE PRME MINISTER. FREER IS

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MORE DOCTRINAIRE THAN EITHER FAULKNER OR ROWLING AND

HIS ELEVATION TO DEPPM WOULD HAVE TO BE LOOKED UPON  
AS A VICTORY FOR THE LEFT WING OF THE PARTY.

3. COMMENT: PARTY CAUCUS TO VOTE ON CABINET POSITIONS  
WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER AND WILL, IN  
EFFECT, ESTABLISH PARTY LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR NOVEMBER  
1975 ELECTIONS. FAULKNER IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASY AND  
HIS VIEWS ON DEFENSE MATTERS CLOSELY FOLLOW US POSITIONS.  
HIS ELEVATION TO NUMBER TWO JOB IN CABINET WOULD  
EFFECTIVELY REINFORCE US-NZ SECURITY RELATIONS.  
SELDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PRIME MINISTER, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974WELLIN02079  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740176-0223  
**From:** WELLINGTON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740775/aaaacmmv.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** WELLINGTON 1681. (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MINISTER DEFENCE FAULKNER TOUTED AS NEXT DEPUTY PM  
**TAGS:** PINT, NZ, (ROWLING, WALLACE E), (FAULKNER, ARTHUR J)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005